

6. An apparatus for inducing hypothermia in a patient's brain, comprising:
- a) a first coolant contact having inlet and outlet coolant conducting elements, the first coolant contact being insertable into the patient's oral cavity, whereby the first coolant contact contacts at least a portion of the surface of the oral cavity of the patient at a location where the oral cavity contains blood vessels and tissues proximate thereto;
  - b) a second coolant contact having inlet and outlet coolant conducting elements, the second coolant contact being positionable around at least a portion of the patient's neck, whereby the second coolant contact contacts the exterior skin surface of the neck of the patient proximate the carotid artery; and
  - c) a source of liquid or gaseous coolant in fluidic contact with the inlet and outlet coolant conducting elements of the first coolant contact and the second coolant contact, whereby the coolant from the coolant source flows through the inlet and outlet coolant conducting elements of the first coolant contact and the second coolant contact, cooling the first coolant contact and the second coolant contact, and the first coolant contact and second coolant contact lower the temperature of the blood vessels and tissues proximately thereto contained in the oral cavity and the carotid artery, said tissues, blood vessels and carotid artery further acting as heat conducting paths from the brain to the first coolant contact and second coolant contact, whereby the temperature of the brain is lowered.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first coolant contact comprises a bladder.
8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the second coolant contact comprises a collar.
9. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first coolant contact having inlet and outlet coolant conducting elements and the second coolant contact having inlet and outlet coolant

conducting elements comprise non-metallic fabric or plastic materials, whereby said apparatus is compatible with X-ray, MRI or CAT scan procedures.

10. A method of inducing hypothermia in a patient's brain, comprising the steps of:
  - a) contacting at least a portion of the surface of the oral cavity of the patient at a location where the oral cavity contains blood vessels with a first coolant contact; and
  - b) contacting the exterior skin surface of the neck of the patient proximate the carotid artery with a second coolant contact;  
whereby the blood vessels and carotid artery are lowered in temperature to cool the brain.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
  - a) flowing coolant through the first coolant contact by means of an inlet tube to the first coolant contact and an outlet tube to the first coolant contact; and
  - b) flowing coolant through the second coolant contact by means of an inlet tube to the second coolant contact and an outlet tube to the second coolant contact.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein there is a common source for the flowing coolant for the first coolant contact and the flowing coolant for the second coolant contact.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the first coolant contact comprises a bladder.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the second coolant contact comprises a collar.

15. A method of inducing hypothermia in a patient's brain, comprising the steps of:

a) inserting a coolant contact comprising a bladder, an inlet coolant conducting tube and an outlet coolant conducting tube into the oral cavity of the patient, the bladder being in contact with tissues proximate blood vessels located at the rear of the patient's oral cavity; and

b) flowing coolant through the bladder by means of the inlet coolant conducting tube and the outlet coolant conducting tube, whereby the tissues and blood vessels are lowered in temperature to cool the brain.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the bladder is a toroidal bladder and the coolant contact further comprises an endotracheal tube, wherein the toroidal bladder surrounds the endotracheal tube.

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